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CANBERRA BIRD NOTES

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BIRD REPORT 1 JULY 1980 TO 30 JUNE 1981

Michael Lenz

1. General

The report year was the third in a row of drought years. The brown countryside, increasing numbers of eucalypts losing their foliage, and receding Lake George were obvious signs of the lack of rain. Our current level of systematic recording of the status of birds only allows us to measure the effect of these harsh conditions to be measured for a few groups of birds eg. waterbirds.

A number of new or rare species for our area were recorded: Little Bittern, Black-necked Stork (first ACT record), Black Falcon, Lesser Golden Plover, Common Koel (second record for region), Red-backed Kingfisher, Singing Bushlark, Black-faced Monarch (second ACT record), Brown Gerygone (first ACT record), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (second ACT record), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint were observed during the winter, and unusual numbers of Blue-billed Ducks were seen at Lake Bathurst. White-winged Triller, Brown and Rufous Songlark and White-browed Woodswallows reached population levels not recorded for several years.

We can improve our prospect for monitoring bird population changes within and between years considerably with more systematic surveys. The Waterbird Survey now augmented (since 1 July 1981) by a Canberra-wide Garden Bird Survey (garden charts) and techniques to include various non-urban land habitats are currently being developed. This will mean that, more than in previous years, we will be utilising and depending on the voluntary co-operation of COG's members. The success of the various programmes rests entirely on the support, enthusiasm and endurance that our members are prepared to bring to the task. Even if you cannot participate in the field you could lend us a helping hand in processing the recorded observations. Any members who feel that they could assist in any way can contact any member of the committee who will be only too happy to discuss possible activities and projects.

The many contributions which enabled compiling of this report, clearly indicate the potential in the COG membership for outstanding bird recording. Very many thanks to all those who provided their notes and those who participated in the organised Waterbird Surveys (names marked with an asterisk).

RA	R Anderson*	Barr J Barr
EA	E Andrew	Bear C Bear*
KA	Kay Anway*	RBen R Bennett*
AA	A Atkins*	RBir Rosemary Birch
B&DBak	B & Denise Baker*	BBlay B Blaylock*
IB	I A Baird*	AB A Bodley

LB L W Braithwaite	SMat Sue Mathews*
MB M Brooker*	Ras S H P Mason
JCal J Calaby	EMcM E McMaster*
MClay M Clayton*	EMet E C Metcalf
Cook J Cook	RMet R Metcalf*
R&CCorn R & Caroline Cornes*	AM A Morrison
RCoop R J Cooper	SMur Susan Murray
AC A Cowan	Nix H Nix*
IC Isobel Crawford*	PO P Ormay
CD C Davey	JP J Penhallurick*
SD S Davey	DPf D Pfanner*
RD R Digan*	GP G H Pfitzner
MD M Doyle*	SProw S Proswe
AD A Drake*	D&SPur D & S Purchase
BF B Fitzgerald*	J&GR J & Gillian Redmond*
P&DF P J & D P Fullagar*	Ross A D Ross*
RG-S R Gregory-Smith	Row Alison Rowell*
Guy G Guy	VR V Russell
DR D K Rushton	
NH N Hermes	
JHol J Holland TR	T Rutzou
JHar J Hardwick*	RS R Schodde*
B&DJoh B & Delia Johnson*	BS Barbara Staples
D&SJud D & Susan Judge*	KT Kurt Thaler
RK Rosemary Kennemore	JV Joe Vandermark*
Lark M Larkin	SW S J Wilson*
Lane Muriel Lane	KW K Windle
AL A Lawson*	MW M Wright
Lenz M Lenz	CZ Carmen Zanetti
B&DL B & D Lindenmayer*	WBS Waterbird Survey

Please submit your records for the next report (period 1 July 1981-30 June 1982), together with your Garden Charts to the Records Officer by mid-July 1982. Many thanks in advance!

The records on the following pages come from a variety of sources. The waterbirds are recorded in detail and figures quoted come from the regular and methodical bi-monthly lake surveys. Those wetland areas covered are Lake George (divided for many species into two - the main lake and the eastern wetlands) and Lake Ginninderra. Many common forest and garden species were observed methodically either on garden charts or transects. For those species other than waterbirds or those

regularly surveyed on garden or near-city transects records reported here are casual or chance observations. The most reliable data for illustrating seasonal fluctuations or indexing population numbers are the records of waterbirds or records that are indicated as coming from regular transect or garden counts.

Note: for some of the Lake Bathurst data surveys were not for the whole lake. These records are in brackets.

SUMMARY OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM CANBERRA CITY, JULY 1980-JUNE 1981

OBSERVATIONS \. MONTH	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	SUMMARY 1980
Mean temperature (C) a* n*	6.2 5.3	7.3 6.7	11. 1 9.4	14. 7 12. 4	17. 8 15. 3	20. 3 18. 6	24. 2 20. 3	21.3 19.7	17. 5 17. 5	14. 7 13. 0	10. 0 8.9	6.8 6.5	14.3 12.8
o Rainfall (mm) n	36.6 37.0	22. 45. 0	28. 4 53. 0	49. 6 71. 0	56. 4 62. 0	83. 8 52. 0	32. 4 61. 0	133. 0 59.0	16. 2 54. 0	15. 8 49. 0	56. 0 49. 0	128. 4 37.0	539.2 633.0
o No of rain days	10 10	10 12	8 11	10 12	10 9	8 8	6 8	9 7	4 7	6 8	13 8	15 9	93 110
Mean daily a sunshine (hrs) n	5.5 5.2	7.6 6.2	8.9 7.3	9.5 7.9	9.8 8.8	9.5 9.1	9.6 8.9	7.7 8.2	9.0 7.4	8.0 6.9	4.5 5.6	4.9 4.8	8.1 7.2
No of days with frost	22 21.2	28 18. 9	17 13. 5	10 6.2	2 2.0	0 0.3	0 0	0 0	4 0.3	17 4.9	16 14. 5	19 18.1	135 99.9

* a = actual; n = normal (long-term average)

All values from 'Monthly Weather Review, New South Wales', Department of Science and the Environment, Bureau of Meteorology.

List of Abbreviations:

Places:

ANU	Australian National University
Ains	Ainslie
BotG	Botanic Gardens
Googong	Googong Dam
GudNR	Gudgenby Nature Reserve
Gungahlin	Division of Wildlife Research, Gungahlin
KS	Kellys Swamp
LBG	Lake Burley Griffin
LBG,E	Eastern end of LBG including Kellys Swamp
LBath	Lake Bathurst
LGeoS	Southern end of Lake George
LGeoN	Northern end of Lake George
LGeoDeepCk	Locality outside regular waterbird survey
LGIN	Lake Ginninderra
MtAins	Mt Ainslie
O'Con	O'Connor
SullCr	Sullivan's Creek, ANU
TidNR	Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
Urban Lakes	LBG, incl LBG.E, LGIN, SullCr
Wann	Wanniassa
Wool Stn and N,S,E,W	Woolcarra Station, Captains Flat Road for points of the compass

Dates:

L	Late)	
E	Early)	Division of months into 10 day periods
M	Middle)	
3/30Jan	3 birds on 30 Jan	

Breeding Notes:

ad	Adult
juv	juvenile
P	Pair
T	Territory
Ca	About
M	Male
F	Female

2. Species List; Non-breeding Records

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*. 3/1980 Gudgenby Valley, Gudgenby NR, (Lark).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. 5 records M Sep-E Nov: 1/14 Sep LBG,E (Ross); 4/26 Oct LGin (Bear); 1/6&21 Nov, 2/24 Nov LBG.E (Ross).

Hoary-headed Grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus* . Present in usual numbers on urban lakes; remarkable numbers LBath, largest numbers Sep & Feb-Apr (WBS.Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	120+	/	118	/	100	/	181	/	206	/	161
LBG,E	36	63	180	117	110	128	217	180	225	245	120	25
LGin	/	61+	/	17	/	12	/	0	/	3+	/	65+
LBath	/	/	/	90+	/	800	/	1650	/	940	/	307

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*. Recorded only from urban lakes with largest numbers Jul-Aug & Apr-Jun (WBS,Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	47	/	11	/	3	/	3	/	15	/	60
LBG,E	20	15	124	2	1	2	3	10	3	0	10	
LGin	/	16+	/	4	/	0	/	2	/	22+	/	17+

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*. LBG max Oct-Feb; LGeo max Dec, from Feb onwards level to low (WBS,Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	42	/	92	/	139	/	112	/	22	/	17
LBG,E	6	10	23	80	90	90	60	85	50	20	20	13
LGin	/	9	/	1	/	0	/	15	/	0	/	1
LGeoN	125	108	/	/	135	670	170	0	/	0	/	0
LGeoS	/	133	/	117	/	37	/	3	0	/	0	/
LBath	/	/	/	0	/	16	/	32	/	4	/	0

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*. In small numbers, recorded only from LBG (WBS,Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	2	/	3	/	1	/	4	/	2	/	1
LBG,E	1	0	3	3	2	2	1	4	6	7	5	3

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Mainly on urban lakes, increasing numbers on LGin, max Oct (WBS,Ross); max LBG Dec-Feb (WBS.Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	155	/	140	/	198	/	191	/	37	/	31
LBG,E	7	10	50	60	80	80	90	62	60	51	25	11
LGIN	/	14	/	64	/	21	/	25	/	15	/	8

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax Varius*. Several records from urban lakes: 2/22 Jan & 20 Feb LGIN (CD); 3/14 Dec LBG (RMet.EMcM); 2/15 Mar, 1/26&29 Mar, 2/5 Apr, 1/12 Apr, 1/10 May, 4/21 May LBG.E (Ross).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*. Mainly on urban lakes: max Aug & Apr-Jun LBG; max Apr LGIN (WES,Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JVN
LBG	/	165	/	43	/	60	/	26	/	76	/	88
LBG,E	17	7	20	10	2	5	7	5	15	30	24	40
LGIN	/	12	/	2	/	5	/	8	/	48	/	3

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. Mainly on urban lakes; max Aug & Feb-Jun LBG; Aug & Apr LGIN (WES,Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	46	/	18	/	12	/	44	/	48	/	72
LBG,E	8	9	12	6	14	6	3	12	14	14	22	10
LGIN	/	17	/	0	/	0	/	2	/	28	/	2

Pacific Heron *Ardea pacifica*. Only single birds Aug-Nov & Mar LBG,E (Ross); Jan-Feb in other area, max 3/17 Jan Sutton (Guy); 3/22 Feb LBath-Morass (MD).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	2x1	5x1	1x1	1x1				1x1				

White-faced Heron-*Ardea novaehollandiae*. At lakes mainly from Dec onwards; in other areas more common Dec-Apr (WES,Ross), max 16/23 Feb KS (Guy) & 11/23 Feb in paddock Sutton (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	3	/	5	/	11	/	14	/	13	/	12
LBG,E	1	1	3	2	2	2	4	16	6	11	6	6
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	4	/	11	/	8	/	0

Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*. With one exception records only from LBG,E with max as previously Nov & Mar-Jun (RG-S.RMas.Ross); 1/5 May Gungahlin, colour marked in Murwillumbah (MClay,GP).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	4	1	3	0	20	3	0	0	20	25	15	13

Great Egret *Egretta alba*. Regular with max 3 LBG,E (Ross); only few observed of single birds from other areas recorded

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. Only one observed: 1/14 Dec LBG,E (Ross).

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*. Only one observed: 1/27 Jul LBG,E (RG-S).

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*. Mainly recorded from LBG,E; records probably no reflection of actual numbers (RMas.Ross); 1/7 Nov ANU (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	0	3	4	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	2

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*. One record: 1M/21 Dec Gungahlin (DR).

Black-necked Stork *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. First ACT record: and first inland record in the region; 1/17 May KS (RBenn).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*. Regular Sep-Mar LBG,E with max Dec (AD,Guy,RMas,Ross); 2/14 Dec LBath (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG.E	0	0	2	2	4	12	9	7	4	0	0	0

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopica*. Regular LBG,E in fluctuating numbers, less than in previous year (Ross); other areas 6/11 Jul; 6/10 Jan TidNR (RG-S); 3/21 Jun LBath (WBS).

Other Areas

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	6	11	1	1	15	5	12	25	8	28	6	20
	6	-	-	2	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	3

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*. In urban lakes Jul-Sep & Jan-Jun; max 350/11 Jan LGeoN (Digan, Lenz); 120/22 Feb LBath (WBS): Also several observed flocks feeding on urban sports grounds (D&SPur, B&DJoh,Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	20	7	10	0	0	0	3	5	6	20	40	25
LGeoN	36	0	/	/	7	0	350	59	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	12	/	120	/	0	/	0

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*. Mainly LBG,E; only small numbers, -max Dec-Mar (Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	0	1	0	1	2	6	6	6	7	4	1	0

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes*. Mainly LBG,E, only small numbers (WBS,Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	1	0	0	3	2	3	4	6	3	4	3	2
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	1	/	8	/	0	/	7

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*. On urban lakes in usual small numbers; sharp decline on LGeo, due to low water level, but substantial population LBath (WBS,Lenz,Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	17	/	12	/	9	/	15	/	5	/	10
LBG,E	15	13	15	5	19	26	21	16	11	8	9	22
LGeoN	15	36	/	/	33	30	12	4	/	3	/	7
LGeoS	/	155	/	26	/	26	/	6	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/		130	/	224	/	122	/	470	/	680

Freckled Duck *Stictonetta naevosa*. LGeo only until Jan with max Dec; from Dec onwards LBath with max Feb, birds from LGeo shifted possibly to LBath (WES); 7 records LBG,E, 1/5 Oct; 5/2 Nov; 4 times Dec, max 6/19 Dec; 1/3 Jan (Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGeoN	8	0	/	/	123	181	101	0	/	0	/	0
LGeoS	/	0	/	22	/	61	/	0	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	46	/	132	/	34	/	37

Australian Shelduck *Tadorna tadornoides*. LBG,E in similar numbers & distribution pattern as previously (AD,Ross); highest numbers LGeoN with ca 600 Dec & Feb (Lenz)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	0	/	15	/	1	/	1	/	38	/	2
LBG,E	1	0	1	15	30	20	30	30	40	17	10	2
LGeoN	28	15	/	/	49	640	89	600	/	6	/	3
LGeoS	/	13	/	/	/	0	/	3	/	0	/	8
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	46	/	132	132	34	/	37

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*. On urban lakes in smaller numbers than in previous year, on natural lakes mainly LBath (WBS, Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	383	/	148	/	233	/	197	/	278	/	264
LBG.E	100	51	45	38	70	35	45	40	30	75	75	70
LGIN	/	30	/	30	/	60	/	49	/	8	/	11
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	24	/	78	/	68	/	18

Mallard/Domestic Duck *Anas platyrhynchos*. Recorded all months on urban lakes (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	9	/	7	/	8	/	9	/	7	/	3
LGIN	/	10	/	6	/	1	/	2	/	3	/	2

Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*. On urban lakes in similar numbers as in previous year; significantly less birds on LGeo (WBS, Lenz, Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	219	/	134	/	165	/	30	/	27	/	37
LBG,E	90	210	150	150	200	225	230	30	75	65	95	90
LGIN	/	2	/	0	/	2	/	0	/	0	/	0
LGeoN	1620	1510	/	/	1130	1000	240	395	/	20	/	40
LGeoS	/	590	/	526	/	278	/	307	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	13	/	2	/	10	/	12

Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea*. Regular only LBath; other records 4/11 Jul TidNR (RG-S); 9/24 Aug LGeoN (Lenz); 2/10 Jan TidNR (RG-S); 1/11 Jan; 1/15 Mar LBGE (Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	13	/	20	/	10	/	12

Australasian Shoveler *Anas rhynchotis*. LBG,E in similar numbers to previous year (Ross, WBS); only small numbers LGeo (WBS); but remarkable max with 1500 Feb LBath. (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	25	/	23	/	2	/	20	/	21	/	5
LBG,E	25	23	22	23	33	55	60	50	36	42	32	36
LGeoN	10	4	/	/	64	3	25	8	/	3	/	0
LGeoS	/	2	/	68	/	63	/	48	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(1)	/	160	/	1526	/	846	/	36

Pink-eared Duck *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. On urban lakes only, LBG,E with new max for area: 100/28 Sep (Ross); LGeo max Dec, on LBath mainly after birds have left LGeo due to low water level (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	0	4	100	50	20	5	4	3	8	3	2	12
LGeo,N	357	1350	/	/	14152100135035	/	0	/	0	/	0	0
LGeo.S	/	280	/	1	/	2	/	0	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	3	/	310	/	430	/	377

Hardhead *Aythya australis*. LBG,E max Nov-Dec, at other times in smaller numbers than in previous year (Guy,Ross); on natural lakes small numbers only LBath (WBS); other areas 20/16 Aug, Point Hut (RG-S); 30/11 Sep Kambah Pool (AM).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	61	/	73	/	82	/	30	/	46	/	6
LBG,E	19	57	90	70	180	175	225	37	38	55	7	6
LGIN	/	1	/	0	/	73	/	0	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(9)	/	53	/	21	/34		/	30

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*. Mainly on urban lakes, but in smaller numbers than in last two years (especially against last year) (WBS, Guy,Ross). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	17	/	61	/	111	/	65	/	100	/	6
LBG,E	11	2	4	25	60	45	77	60	20	50	30	2
LGIN	/	0	/	3	/	47	/	26	/	21	/	24

Blue-billed Duck *Oxyura australis*. Only LBath 1/14 Dec (Row.KW); exceptionally high number with 164/21 Jun (P&DF) (see also Musk Duck)

Musk Duck *Biziura lobata*. LBG in similar numbers, LGIN in smaller numbers compared to previous year; large numbers Jun, LBath, parallel those of Blue-billed Duck (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	35	/	16	/	33	/	11	/	30	/	17
LGIN	/	18	/	7	/	13	/	10	/	18	/	15
LBath	/	/	/	(5)	/	5	/	19	/	5	/	130

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus notatus*. Present every month as indicated from casual records (sum of max number of birds per area per month).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Max no birds	6	5	3	5	4	6	6	8	5	10	7	4

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*. Observations for all months except Sep, most records available for LBG,E (sum of max number of birds per area per month).

Max no	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
birds	3	4	0	2	2	1	4	2	6	5	4	3

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*. Casual records for 8 months, with max observed after the breeding season (sum of max number of birds per area per month).

Max no	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Birds	3	2	1	/	/	3	3	6	4	3	/	7

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. Only few records available, except for observations from a garden in O'Con (max number of birds) (S Metcalf). (See also breeding.)

Max no	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
birds	0	1	2	4	4	4	0	0	2	1	0	1

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. 2 records from LBG,E: 1/14 Sep, 1/30 Jun (Ross); 2 records from Googong: 1/2 May (RCoop,GP); 1/5 May (RCoop).

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*. Casual records for all months except May & Jun (sum of max number of birds per area per month).

Max no	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	birds
	2411424132//												

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*. Only one observation: 1/11 Jan LGeoN (RD,Lenz), earlier than indicated in Field List.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. 9 records of single birds in the following distribution (RG-S,Nix,Ross).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1

Black Falcon *Falco subniger*. 2 records: 1/2 Jan flying across Red Hill (AC); 1/26 April LBath (Nix).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. 6 suburban records: 2 x Nov, 1 x Dec, 1 x Jan, 1 x Mar, 1 x May.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*, Available records for Canberra area only LBG,E (10) and LGin (1) (RD, RG-S, Ross); 16/22 Feb LGeoN in small area of a paddock on the ground feeding on insects (Lenz).

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*. In 2 urban areas regularly present for most of year except winter (Guy); MOct-MApr Wann (B&DBak); MSep-MApr Chapman (JHol). (See also breeding.)

Stubble Quail *Coturnix novaeseelandiae*. 3 records: I/Dec LGin (RD) ; 1/21 Dec Mt Tennant (RMet); 6+/EJun Narrabundah Lane, stayed around Wildlife Gardens for 4 days, no escapees (Guy).

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*. 1 record: 2/15 Dec LGeoN (Lenz).

Painted Button-quail *Turnix varia*. Only 1 record available: 1/8 Mar Mt Ains, transformer station (Lenz).

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*. Only 1 record: 1/7 Nov ANU (Lenz).

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*. More common than in other years, regular MSep-MJan, except Oct (Ross) (max number of birds per month)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
0	0	3+	0	3	2	2

Australian Crake *Porzana fluminea*. More common than in other years, regular MSep-EFeb (Guy, RMas, Ross and others) (max number of birds per month below); 1/10 Feb TidNR waterfowl enclosure (PO); 1/5 May sewage ponds at LBG,E (SW).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0	0	4+	4	5	3	4	3	0	0	1	0

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*. Numbers in general lower than in previous year for LBG (WBS), also indicated from the counts of sub population LBG,E (Ross) and SullCr (Lenz). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	212	/	100	/	47	/	116	/	83	/	14
LBG,E	40	20	19	20	12	8	20	24	20	18	38	17
SullCr	46	38	55	/	19	9	14	12	17	17	39	/
LGin	/	7	/	10	/	3	/	13	/	7	/	7

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*. LBG from Feb onwards more common than previous year; LGin now regular (WBS, Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	148	/	109	/	54	/	125	/	121	/	201
LBG.E	48	43	50	55	50	27	20	42	48	55	88	79
LGin	/	3	/	4	/	0	/	11	/	24	/	25

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. LBG for most of year (especially first half) numbers above those for previous year; LGeo numbers comparable to last year; species disappeared from LGeo by Dec, but abundant throughout LBath (WES). (See also breeding.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	3060	/	2360	/	2410	/	2285	/	2065	/	2600
LBG.E	700	670	900	1000	1000	950	720	560	480	420	700	750
LGeo	/	945	/	498	/	652	/	686	/	725	/	652
LGeoN	3000	1800	/	/	900	0	0	0	/	0	/	0
LGeoS	/	820	/	1255	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	21
LBath	/	/	/	(1400)	/	(4700)	/	5500	/	(1900)	/	6200

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*. Generally present in similar numbers as previous year, but figures for Dec/Jan LBG,E and LGeoN indicate local movement (WES, Ross).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	18	/	26	/	25	/	52	/	73	/	46
LBG,E	22	8	25	16	25	100	74	50	35	30	45	50
LGeo	/	2	/	4	/	2	/	11	/	11	/	4
LGeoN	31	22	/	/	30	10	70	139	/	65	/	67
LGeoS	/	14	/	5	/	0	/	12	/	2	/	2
LBath	/	/	/	(31)	/	(60)	/	145	/	122	/	161

Banded Lapwing *Vanellus tricolor*. 3 records of this species which has become quite rare in our area: 2/11 Dec S of Narrabundah (AD); 7/15 Feb E of LBath township (AM); 2/14 May near Tuggeranong Telephone exchange (ML).

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. LBG.E (RMas). Fifth ACT record: 2/7 Sep

Red-kneed Dotterel *Erythrogonys cinctus*. Records mainly from LBG,E Sep-Feb (mainly Ross,Guy) (max number of birds per 10 day period); according to Field List species absent from our area Sep-Dec (!); 2/14&15 Apr LGeoS (RMas).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0	0	2-3-5	7-9-11	5-6-8	6-7-8	6-5-3	2-0-1	0	0	0	0

Double-banded Plover *Charadrius bicinctus*. 2 records: 15/22 Feb LBath (Nix): 5/26 Apr LGeo, Deep Creek (BBlay,AD).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*. Only at natural lakes, most common in winter (WBS); 26 Apr in addition to 110 LGeoS a further 100 LGeoS DeepCr (outside area of WBS) (BBlay,AD). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGeoN	193	73	19	/	/	25	20	36	/	30	/	62
LGeoS	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	0	/	110	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(16)/	(59)/	6	/	(26)/	120			

Black-fronted Plover *Charadrius melanops*. Records mainly LBG,E, all months except Jun (Ross), numbers at a lower 'normal' level in comparison to previous year. (See also breeding.) 10/2 Nov Michelago (RG-S); (max number of birds per month)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	14	6	7	5	6	13	20	4	9	4	4	40
LBath	/	/	/	(0)	/	(4)	/	15	/	(0)	/	(9)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. 2-4 birds regular Sep-Jun LBG,E (Ross and others); only occasionally LGeo. but regular LBath with remarkable max Dec (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	0	0	2	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
LGeoN	0	5	0	/	0	0	10	0	/	0	/	0
LBath	/	/	/	(49)	/	(219)/	38	/	(13)/	25		

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. 8 records LBG,E: very early 1/14 Sep; in usual time 2/7 Dec; 1/14 Dec; and latest records for our area (over winter) 1/10,18,21,24 May (Ross); 13/14 Dec LBath (MD,Nix and others).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*. 2 further records of this rare species: 1/9 Nov KS (Ross); 1/7-14 Dec KS (AD,Ross, KW & others); 8 Dec 2 birds (KW) (see CBN 6:80-81); 3rd & 4th record for region.

Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*. Records available only from LBG area, mainly LBG,E (number of records per month) (Ross); 2/16 Dec SullCk (Lenz)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	0	0	4	1	7	5	5	1	1	0	0	0

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*. LBG,E in smaller numbers than previous year (Ross, RG-S); remarkable numbers in Dec LBath (MD,AD,Nix and others); LGeo only 3/16 Nov (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG.E	0	1	16	25	12	5	3	3	0	0	0	0
LBath	/	/	/	(132)	/(351)	/	0	/	0	/	0	0

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*. Mainly LGeoN (WBS,Lenz) further winter records: 3/27 Jul, 70/24 Aug (Lenz); 11/14 Dec LBath (WBS); 6/26 Apr LGeoS, DeepCk (BBlay,AD).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGeoN	3	70	/	/	6	29	0	19	/	0	/	0

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. First winter record: 3/21 Jun LBath (MB,RMet).

Silver Gull *LARUS novaehollandiae*. LBG generally in lower numbers than in previous year; LGeo sharp decrease after Feb (WBS).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG	/	217	/	430	/	617	/	475	/	724	/	470
LGeoN	65	260	/	/	100	30	785	900	/	25	/	70
LGeoS	/	25	/	345	/	59	/	461	/	60	/	10
LBath	/	/	/	(585)	/	(230)	/	530	/	(37)	/	387

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*. More observed than in previous years: 7 records Sep LBG,E with max 5/21 and 8/24 Sep (Ross); 1/16 Oct, 1/30 Nov LBG,E (Ross); 5/14 Dec LGeoN (Lenz): 45/14 LBath (Row.KW).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera*. Canberra records only available for Mt Ains, Duffy, Cotter Road (Lenz) and BotG (KT). (See also breeding.)

Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimmibriatum*. Seasonal distribution of numbers in Canberra as in previous year: lowest Dec, highest Mar/Apr figures (pooled from regular area records and from casual observations) (various observers).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
14	20	33	21	22	5	25	28	42	50	29	15

Galah *Cacatua Roseicapilla*. Combined numbers (monthly max) for 4 garden areas (as in previous year): Aranda (KA), Melba (D&SPur), O'Con (EMet), Wann (B&DBak).

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
 78 84 23 18 43 67 51 70 73 82 94 115

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*. Present all months mostly in smaller numbers; even during the breeding season (Oct-Dec) attracted to feeders in suburbs; Jun several hundred O'Con (Nix).

Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis*. Records from urban Canberra well into the breeding season: IMNov O'Con (Nix); 1/1 Nov Ainslie, Corroboree Park, 1/4 Nov ANU, 1/25 Jan Mt Ains (Lenz); again 1/EFeb and from LFeb regular O'Con (Nix); 100+/28 Jul feeding in *Cedrus atiantioa* trees, Forest (Guy).

Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*. 1/14 Jul Fisher, escapee(?) (EA)

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*. 3 sets of monthly figures below: transects Mt Ains & ANU (Lenz) and 4 gardens (pooled monthly max) Melba (KA), Wann (B&DBak), O'Con (EMet & Nix). Mt Ains and ANU figures higher than in previous year. 1 Yellow Rosella with Crimson Rosella 15 Dec ANU (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEE	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Mt Ains	9	15	8	/	7	10	15	22	27	19	16	/
ANU	15	7	/	/	4	6	10	11	15	13	42	/
4 gdns	14	17	20	14	12	8	11	13	12	13	20	14

Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius*. 3 sets of monthly figures below: transects Mt Ains & ANU (Lenz) and 4 gardens (pooled monthly max) Melba (KA), Wann (B&DBak), O'Con (EMet & Nix).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Mt Ains	1	5	/	/	9	10	2	3	11	8	3	/
ANU	3	8	4	/	2	5	16	8	6	15	12	/
4 gdns	16	19	16	20	10	13	28	20	22	39	23	32

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus haematonotus*. 2 sets of figures below: transect ANU (Lenz) & a garden in Wann (B&DBak). More evenly present ANU than previous year.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
ANU	5	10	14	/	17	14	13	8	19	6	16	/
Wann	42	35	9	2	2	4	15	7	8	8	8	15

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*- From MAug (B&DBak) to MJan. In Chapman regular MSep-MNov, in previous years only 1-2 records (JHol). Distribution of records for 10 day periods (mainly of calling birds) (various observers). (See also breeding.)

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
0-1-5	3-5-7	10-7-3	4-2-5	1-1-0	2-1-0

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cuculus pyrrhophanus*. From 18 Aug (Nix) to Dec. Distribution of records for 10 day periods (mainly of calling birds) (various observers)

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
0-1-2	1-2-1	1-1-1	4-1-1	1-2-2

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*. From LAug-LJan. Distribution of records for 10 day periods indicates 2 peaks of calling activity (Sep/MOct & LNov/MDec). Series of observation of a bird during winter from a garden in Chapman: 28 Apr-7 Jul 81; always in *Casuarina cunninghamiana* & *C stricta* (JHol). (See also breeding.) (Records from various observers.)

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0-0-1	3-2-1	2-2-0	0-1-4	2-2-1	1-0-2			1		->

Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*. 30 Aug-22 Feb. Distribution of records for 10 day periods. (Various observers.)

AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
0-0-1	2-2-1	2-1-2	2-2-2	2-0-0	1-0-1	0-1-1

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*. Several observed and second record for the ACT: LDec-MJan of M: 1M/22 Dec Yarralumla (JCal); 1M/28 Dec Hughes/Garran (RS); 1M/1-8 Jan Curtin/Lyons (VR); 1M 9-12 Dec Deakin, always calling early in the morning (LB).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*. 6 records: 1/MAug Aranda (RK); 1/2 Sep TidNR, in *PLnus vadiata* (PO); 1/8 Sep Griffith, at night sitting on a car (SW), see also CBN 6(1981)47; 1/10 Mar Melba (D&SPur); 1/22 Mar Chapman (JHol); 1 found dead / 20 Apr LBG,E (Ross).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*. 24 Dec-1 Apr with max Feb, max 1000+ at 1700 hrs/18 Feb O'Con (Nix). Monthly distribution of number of birds from various observers.

DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
34	35	1700	670	10

Red-backed Kingfisher *Halcyon pyrrhopygia*. 2 records of this rare species and first suburban record: 1/10 Nov & 20 Dec O'Con garden (EMet); 1/2 Jan S of Tharwa (RMet).

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*. Migration over suburbs noted Oct and May, in most cases birds, very high: 12/6 Oct Pearce (Guy); 2/12 Oct O'Con (Nix); 30/8 Mar Chapman (JHol); 5/16 Mar, 21/20 Mar, 5/22 Mar Ainslie (Lenz). Regular Nov-Mar with max 8 Murrumbidgee/ Tharwa (RMet), further record Michelago Creek (2), Smith's Crossing, Naas (6) and Uriarra Crossing (several), all Nov (RG-S).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*. Similar pattern as described for previous year: birds conspicuous for short period after arrival until about MNov, then only few records until MDec/EJan followed by increase in observations, birds common until EFeb. As observed at Mt Ains birds are very quiet while nesting, but change their behaviour once the young are about to leave the nest. The number of adult birds seen in the period MDec/EJan is equal to the local breeding population. Chapman first year with birds present for longer periods (LJan-EMar) (JHol). (See also breeding.) Distribution of records from the lower slopes of Mt Ains (to EJan only) (Lenz).

NOV	DEC	JAN
7-0-2	0-8-5	9

Singing Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*. First records for sometime; 2/21 Nov Smith's Crossing, Naas R, several/22 Dec Uriarra Crossing (RG-S).

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*. As previous year 3 max: Sep, Jan, May. Monthly distribution of birds seen (for regularly visited areas only, max per 10 day period).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
35	68	221	36	53	50	202	120	21	294	417	18

Tree Martin *Cereopsis nigricans*. 13 Aug (Ross)-3/14 Jun LBG,E (AD); max Sep and Dec-Jan, (number of birds per month for various observers as follows). (See also breeding.)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0	34	135	33	4	95	82	19	4	6	2	4

Fairy Martin *Cereopsis ariel*. 30 Aug (Lenz)-18 Jan (Ross), max as in previous years during spring migration, only breeding records in Oct, number of birds per month for various observers as follows. (See also breeding.)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
0	15	120	?	19	27	20

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. 44/26 Apr LBath (Nix); counts only from one area - LGin transect (RD).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
/	55	/	/	2	2	4	1	9	7	/	6

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*. Present all year: largest groups 13/Apr Melba (D&SPur), 12/17 May Ains (Lenz); following is sum of monthly max for 10 regularly surveyed urban areas. (See also breeding.)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
8	15	16	16	18	19	24	36	30	45	25	6

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*. One rare record: 1/30 Oct O'Con (EMet).

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*. One rare record outside its usual mountain forest habitat: 1M/30 Nov Chapman (JHol).

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*. Sep-Jan, far more common than in previous years. Males disappeared from several areas EDec (apparently those without partners) or ceased singing (isolated pairs) (Lenz, JHol). (See also breeding.)

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Colonisation of new suburb, Orchard PI Melba 18 records 80/81 against 5 79/80 (D&SPur); following are monthly max O'Con garden (EMet) and number present on ANU & Mt Ains transects (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
O'Connor	3	3	3	3	7	7	6	4	6	6	5	2
ANU	6	8	8	/	9	7	3	3	4	6	8	/
Mt Ains	0	1	/	/	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	/

Rose Robin *Petroica rosea*. Only records available: 1M/30 Aug Mt Ains; 1M/9 Apr BotG (Lenz); 1M/13 May, 1/24 May O'Con (Nix).

Flame Robin *Petroica phoenicea*. Present in the Canberra area mainly Jul/Aug and May/June; summer records IF/15 Dec, IF/1 Feb & 7M/3 Aug Chapman (JHol); following are numbers of birds recorded by various observers.

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
27	13	3	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	25	17

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*. In Canberra area Jul-Sep & Mar-Jun (excluding observations from breeding sites) following are numbers of birds recorded by various observers. (See also breeding.)

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
 8 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 9 19 20 4

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*. Records only from outside ACT except for breeding records: IP/15 Dec Breadalbane; 1M&1F separately 8 Jun Binalong; 1 imm M&F separately 21 Jun W of Goulburn (JHol). (See also breeding.)

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*. Several records: IP/6 Jul GudNR, IP Jul, Oct, Jan, Jun near Wool Stn (AM); 2/17 Aug S of Tharwa (RMet); 1/20 Apr Glendale Crossing; 1/4 May TidNR (AM). (See also breeding.)

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*. 5 observations from Jul with max 5/16 Jul Narrabundah Lane (Guy); 7 other records (excluding breeding) 2 in Sep, 1 in Dec, 2 in Apr and 2 in May. (See also breeding.)

Crested Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus*. Several records: Mt Ains base of look-out road 1/30 Nov (MClay) & 1/6 & 20 Dec, 4/17 Apr (Lenz); near Wool Stat 1/23 Sep, 1/16 Jan (AM); 1/16 May Mac Reefs Rd (Guy).

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*. Following records are from non-breeding areas (total number of birds recorded), overall there are less records available than previously but more adult males were noted.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Adult M	1	3	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0
F Plumage	6	11	3	3	12	4	2	0	3	16	19	13
Total	7	14	9	6	12	4	2	0	3	19	21	13

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris*. More common in winter than in previous year, otherwise distribution pattern similar. Total number of birds recorded as follows

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
 4 2 7 28 44 25 20 17 22 23 17 7

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*. Recorded from suburban gardens Jul-Sep and Mar-Jun.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*. One rare observation, 2nd ACT record: 1M/9 Nov Mt Ains with other wet forest spp (Rufous Fantail, Satin Flycatcher) (Lenz), later record of same group in garden Duffy St, Ains (CZ).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*. Recorded 21 Oct (Nix)-29 Mar (JHol). (See also breeding.)

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*. Few records from non-breeding areas: 1M/2 Nov, 2M/9 Nov Mt Ains (Lenz); IM/Jan O'Con (EMet).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*. Several records: Chapman 1/17&23 Aug; 6&7 Sep; 16 Nov (JHol); Wool Stn 1/23 Sep, 23 Jan, 14 Feb, 17 Jun (AM); Tharwa 1 6 Jul, 8 Nov, 8 Feb (RMet); Cotter Rd 1/12 Jul (Lenz); Narrabundah Lane 1/1 Sep (Guy). (See also breeding.)

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*. Several records from non-breeding areas: 9 1/9 Nov Mt Ains (Lenz); 1/16 Nov Ains garden (AM); 2/16 Dec Mt Ains (Lenz); 1/27-31 Mar Yarralumla garden (JCal); 1/16 Feb 'Kanangra', Burra (NH) .

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. Recorded all months but only few birds Jul & Aug: monthly totals for Mt Ains (Lenz), max monthly totals for LBG,E (Ross) and pooled number of birds recorded are as follows. (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Mt Ain	0	3	/	/	4	6	6	14	8	10	8	/
LBG,E	0	1	7	7	6	11	4	1	6	5	4	3
Other areas	3	1	27	5	7	9	23	27	26	13	25	18

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*. Recorded all months: monthly distribution for ANU (Lenz), LBG,E (max per month) (Ross), Tharwa transect (RMet), pooled for other areas (number of birds recorded excluding breeding season) as follows. (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
ANU	1	6	6	/	10	6	6	8	12	4	2	/
LBG,E	2	3	4	5	9	7	7	3	7	6	11	5
Tharwa	1	3	/	11	10	1	1	3	7	3	3	/
Other areas	6	8	5	-	-	-	-	5	11	16	11	13

Spotted Quail-thrush *Cinlosoma punctatum*. 5 records: GudNR 2/6 Jul, 14 Sep, 1 Nov; Shannons Flat Rd 1/25 Feb; Jerrabatgulla 1/2 May (AM).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. LBG,E from 5 Sep onwards, regular until Apr, then 3 winter records; 1/31 May, 7 & 21 Jun (Ross); LGIN from Aug-Feb with the following monthly distribution (RD). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGIN	/	10	75	/	/	65	43	7	/	/	/	/

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*. Recorded LBG,E Aug-Jan (monthly max below) (Ross); other parts of LBG and LGIN records Oct & Dec. (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	0	1	5	4	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*. Recorded Jul-Apr LBG,E (monthly max below), numbers lower than previous year (Ross); 2/Sep LGIN (RD); 1/3 Jan GudNR (AM).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG,E	1	0	3	10+	13	13	10	2	3	1	0	0

Rufous Songlark *Cinchorhamphus mathewsi*. Influx of birds, also records from new localities: Status from available records difficult to assess; counts available LBG,E (monthly max) (Ross) and Tharwa (RMet). (See also breeding.) Present 6 Sep (JHol) to 8 Feb (RMet).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LBG.E	/	/	0	10	3	1	1	0	0	-	-	-
Tharwa	/	/	0	0	1	1	6	1	0	-	-	-

Brown Songlark *Cinchorhamphus mathewsi*. Influx of birds: present EOct (RMet)-MMar (Ross); status from available records difficult to assess; counts available LBG,E (monthly max) (Ross) and Tharwa (RMet). (See also breeding.)

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
LBG,E	0	6	8	10	5	0	1
Tharwa	0	2	4	1	5	0	0

Superb Fairy-wren *Malurus cyaneus*. Movement indicated from LGIN transect (RD) and O'Con garden (EMet), but fairly constant ANU transect (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGIN	/	60	40	/	/	93	85	59	21	62	/	2
O'Con	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	5	5	4	5	3
ANU	11	12	15	/	8	12	16	16	18	15	15	/

Weebill *Smicrornis brevirostris*. Counts available for transects ANU and Mt Ains (Lenz) and an O'Con garden (monthly max) (Nix).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
ANU	2	2	2	/	0	0	4	7	0	7	6	/
MT Ains	7	8	/	/	6	7	4	7	4	6	8	/
O'Connor	6	6	3	4	5	5	6	5	5	3	3	4

Brown Gerygone *Gerygone mouki*. First ACT record, group of 4+ birds BotG rainforest gully, first observed 7 Jul (SW) (see CBN 5 1980 (4) 19-20) and subsequently seen by many others, at least IP present until 8 Nov, suspected breeding (Nix).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*. Several winter records: 1/25 May, 28 Jun Chapman (JHol); 3/12 Apr, 1/31 May, Mt Ains, Pistol Club (Lenz). (See also breeding.)

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*. Few representative records available, but still common in autumn, eg. total of 5 single birds 3 May E of Mt Ains (Lenz). (See also breeding.)

Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*. Records (monthly max) for 2 garden areas Chapman (JHol), O'Con (Nix).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Chapman	3	6	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	4
O'Connor	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	0	0	0

Buff-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza reguloides*. Mt Ains transect numbers lower than previous year (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Mt Ains	8	11	/	/	7	10	5	9	8	10	18	/

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*. Counts available for LGin transect (RD). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGin	/	18	2	/	/	43	40	52	84	33	/	51

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza nana*. Records available only from ANU: Aug, Nov, Jan-Mar (Lenz) and O'Con garden Jan/Feb (Nix). (See also breeding.)

Striated Thornbill *Acanthiza lineata*. Regular counts (monthly max) available for 2 gardens from O'Con (Nix-1 & EMet-2) with remarkable numbers and fluctuations from the later.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
(1)	10+	10+	0	0	6	5	5	7	6	5	4	3
(2)	0	1	4	0	12	0	0	40	20	0	30	20

Southern Whiteface *Aphelocephala leucopsis*. Several records: 2/20 Jul Chapman, first observation in 2 years (JHol); 2/11 Oct, 6/12 Nov High Valley, Angle Crossing; 2/23 Jan & 27 Jun Wool St (AM); 5/17 Apr, 2/10 May Mt Ains.E (Lenz); 5/15 May TidNR (PO).

Varied Sitella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*. Largest flocks reported: 23/16 Mar Mt Ains, Pistol Club; 22/11 Jun CSIRO, Black Mt (Nix).

Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata*. Counts available for ANU transect (Lenz) and monthly max totalled for four gardens: Aranda (KA), Melba (D&SPur), O'Con (Nix.EMet).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
ANU	9	11	4	/	12	9	18	19	40	9	13	/
4 gdns	9	15	18	10	5	7	13	16	23	21	14	13

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*. Second record for ACT (not including Mathews record): 1/12&13 May Melba (Bear).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*. Present from 1 Aug (AC), regular ESep-Jun, counts available for 5 gardens (monthly max from each added together below) Aranda (KA), Wann (B&DBak), Melba (D&SPur) O'Con (Nix,EMet) and also from ANU transect (Lenz); 5 birds 4 Jun to end of month, Melba, one bird colour banded 14 Jun present to at least 18 Jul 1981 (D&SPur). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
5 gdns	0	0	27	29	10	9	15	16	15	24	5	5
ANU	0	0	1	/	0	0	10	5	14	0	0	/

Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*. One rare record: 1/4&5 Oct O'Con (Nix).

Regent Honeyeater *Zanthoniza phrygia*. 4 records Oct-Jan: 1/18 Oct Chapman (JHol); IP/MNov Hughes (RS); 1/16&23 Jan Wool Stn (AM).

Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*. Few observations reported, but interesting series of records LMar-MApr Chapman, 10 times between 1 to 8 birds, all moving through area rather rapidly, stopped in garden trees for only a few minutes (JHol).

Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*. Only small numbers reported during spring and autumn migration; except 2000/MApr (max for ten day period) Wann (B&DBak); Chapman present throughout winter unlike previous years (JHol).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis* . In suburbs and surroundings present Jul-Sep and Apr-Jun, following is number of birds, summing monthly max for each area. (See also breeding.)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
16	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	12	8

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops* More common than previous years: 1/6 Jun, 2/9 Jul Chapman (JHol); 4/23 Sep, 2/18 Oct & 1 Jan Wool Stn (AM); 1/26 Oct GudNR (RG-S); 8/18 Apr Tharwa, Boboyan Rd (RMet); 1/21&24 Jun Hughes (B&DJoh).

Fuscous Honeyeater *Lichenostomus fuscus* . Regular Jul-Sep and Apr-Jun, smaller numbers than previous year, following is number of birds summing monthly max from all areas.

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
33	22	5	/	/	/	/	/	/	10	36	8

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*. Only few records available: 10/3 Aug Chapman (JHol); 8/7 Apr Captains Flat (Lenz); Mt Ains 4 birds present Nov-LMay (Lenz). (See also breeding.)

White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*. In urban areas Jul-Nov and Feb-Jun, max numbers on migration Sep and Mar ('many', 'many flocks'), more common in winter than in previous years, following is number of birds summing monthly max from all areas.

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
70	75	many	25	2	0	0	1	many	210	145	70

Crescent Honeyeater *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*. Several records: 1/MJun O'Con (Nix); 4/3 Sep BotG (Lenz); IF/23 Sep Chapman (JHol); IF/13,14,19,28 Jun Chapman (JHol).

New Holland Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*. Regular records available only ANU transect (Lenz) (see below), 1-2 present O'Con LNov-EMar (Nix).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
ANU	5	6	3	/	4	1	3	5	3	10	9	/

Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*. Regular records available ANU transect (Lenz) and O'Con garden (Nix) (see below), 10+/Jul Holt garden (CE).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
ANU	14	10	7	/	1	3	5	3	1	7	10	/
O'Con	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3

White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons* . Few records: 3/5 Oct Yass River/Gundaroo (AM); IP/10 Dec 'Oakdale' near Sutton (Lenz); 6/26 Apr LBath (Nix).

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*. Regular counts available only ANU transect (Lenz) (see below), single birds passing until LApr (Lenz,Nix).

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0	1	/	/	16	7	1	1	0	0	0	/

Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*. Regular counts in O'Con (monthly max) (Nix) and transects Mt Ains, ANU (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
O'Connor	15+	10+	6	2	2	10+	6	10+	20+	20+	15+	14
Mt Ains	3	12	/	/	14	5	22	60	19	25	8	/
ANU	9	7	4	/	2	10	23	70	22	15	22	/

Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus*. Regular counts in O'Con (monthly max) (Nix) and transects, Mt Ains, ANU (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
O'Connor	100+	100+	30+	5	2	10+	30+	30+	30+	30+	20+	10+
Mt Ains	4	55	/	/	3	8	7	12	15	19	14	/
ANU	44	81	3	/	/	2	3	9	27	0	2	4

Silvereye *Zosterops lateral-is*. Abundancy changes indicated: monthly max summed from each of 4 gardens Aranda (KA), Melba (D&SPur), O'Con (EMet,Nix) and transects Mt Ains, ANU (Lenz).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
4 gdns	62	72	31	44	26	30	120	95	88	167	90	90
Mt Ains	0	9	/	/	15	10	7	6	10	40	32	/
ANU	28	11	6	/	7	13	16	21	36	41	27	/

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* . Remarkable numbers LGin transect (RD). (See also breeding.)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGin	/	24	55	/	/	122	131	105	55	118	/	7

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Regular LBG,E with max 20/13 Sep and 24 May (Ross).

Diamond Firetail *Emblema guttata*. Several records: 3 times Chapman: Jul, Jan (JHol); 4 times Mt Ains, Pistol Club: Nov, Jan, May (Lenz); 1 observation Narrabundah Lane, Jul (Guy); Melba, Jan (D&SPur); Tharwa max 5/22 Mar (RMet).

Double-barred Finch *Poephila bichenovii*. Regular counts LGin transect (RD) (see below); 12-50 during winter in Aranda, taking millet (PO); 50+/13 Jun Tharwa (RMas).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
LGin	/	/	10	/	/	14	16	4	19	56	/	6

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Abundancy changes (monthly max) for 2 garden areas O'Con (EMet), Wann (B&DBak).

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
O'Con	10	50	12	6	16	20	50+	30	30	500+300+200+		
Wann	65	88	43	20	21	50	350	150	100	74	109	60

Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*. Only few records available: the species appears to expand its range, please supply in future all records of this species, also from areas, already known to be occupied: Farrer Pye Place 1-2/Dec, Jan (J&GR); Dookie St 1/Jan (Guy), 2/Jan (J&GR); Deakin/Yarralumla, Adelaide Ave 1/Jan (J&GR); Hughes, Bamford St 5/Aug, 2/Oct-Dec (B&DJoh); Pearce, MacFarland Crs 1/Jul (Guy); Chifley, Melrose Dr 1/8 Nov; Curtin, Munro St, 12+/9 May; Fyshwick, Yallourn St, 2/10 Nov (JHol); Ainslie, Duffy st, 1/25 Jan (Lenz).

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*. 2 May records: 1/10 May Chapman (JHol), 1/28 May ANU (Lenz).

Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*. Record from suburbs: 4+/9 Aug edge of Chapman/Rivett (JHol).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*. Max flock size: 45+20 close together Uriarra Homestead (Lenz). (See also breeding.)

Masked Woodswallow *Artamus personatus*. 3 records: 2/2 Nov Michelago Ck (RG-S); IP/7 Nov Goulburn (JHol); 2/30 Nov Mt Pleasant (MClay).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*. Influx of birds, available records seem to give only poor reflection of the status for this year; species particularly numerous around Araluen, Braidwood; numbers in most cases described as 'many': 400+/2 Nov Michelago Creek (RG-S). (See also breeding.)

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*. Recorded 24 Aug (AD)-30 May (Lenz) following is total number of birds excluding records during breeding season. (See also breeding.)

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
0	10	1	?	BREEDING SEASON				33	32	40	0

Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*. Several records: 1/27 Jul-Nov 'Kanangra', Burra (NH); 2/17 Aug Tharwa (RMet); 1/4 Jan Hackett, 1/15 Feb Ainslie (Lenz); 2/24 Feb; 3/1 Mar Mt Clear (AM); 1/7 Mar Chapman (JHol).

3. Species List: Breeding Records

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*. Ca 6P recorded breeding LBG,E (TR).

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. 2 fully fledged juveniles LBG,E, locally bred? (Ross).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*. Ca 40P recorded nesting LBG,E (TR).

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. First record of this species breeding in the Little Black Cormorant colony LBG,E, Ca 8P (TR).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*. 2 records: IP + 6 cygnets EOct (Ross,TR) subsequently one parent disappeared; IP + 7 cygnets 31 Aug TidNR (PO).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*. Ca 15 broods LBG Nov-Dec (Ross, WBS); IP + 3 juv about 2 weeks old 23 Feb ANU (Lenz).

Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata*. One record each of IP with young LBG & LGIN Oct (WBS); IP with young 26 Apr LGIN exceptionally late (RD,Bear).

Raptors - Breeding Records

The ACT Raptor Group has found a surprisingly large number of birds of prey nesting in two study sites in Canberra. The species recorded are Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk, Collared Sparrowhawk, Little Eagle, Australian Hobby, Brown Falcon, Australian Kestrel and, at other sites within the suburbs, Peregrine Falcon. Details are given elsewhere (J Olsen, CBN, 6 (1981) 78-79).

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*. 2 young of a suburban brood fledged 29 Nov (EMet).

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*. 3 young fledged from a nest (Raven nest on pylon) O'Con 30 Jan, family used nest until 22 Mar, last sighting 13 Apr, 1 juv of this nest banded (J Olsen) killed 3 May, Brisbane! (EMet).

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*. 2P with fledged juv 22 Feb LGeoN (Lenz).

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*. At least 4P or groups with juv LBG,E (Ross), low success SullCr only IP or group with juv (15P or groups in 1979) (Lenz).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. One record: TidNR water fowl enclosure, IP + 1 juv 26 Dec (J C Crowe) same family 10 Jan (RG-S).

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*. 3 breeding records (see also CBN 6(1981) 102); 3 runners 14 Dec LBath (RBen,JV,Nix); IP + 2 runners 11 Jan (RD,Lenz); IP + 2 runners 22 Feb LGeoN (Lenz).

Black-fronted Plover *Charadrius melanops*. IP + 2 juv 14 Dec LBath (Row.KW); also several juv Dec LBG,E (Ross).

Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera* 2P breeding in nests of White-winged Cough. 1 Jan BotG (KT).

Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*. Two records: 1 shortly fledged juv fed by 3 Brown-headed Honeyeaters 2 Nov Mt Ains (Lenz); 1 juv fed by

White-plumed Honeyeater Wann (B&DBak).

Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis*. 2 records; 1 juv fed by Yellow-rumped Thornbills 13 Dec Ains, Pistol Club (Lenz); 1 juv fed by Striated Thornbills 26 Jan BotG (KT).

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae*. 5 birds, IP + 3 juv in Ains garden for 3 days (Cook).

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*. 6T Mt Ains transect, between Fisher St and transformer station (Lenz).

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*. 17T lower slopes of Mt Ains (Campbell-Hackett; Lenz); IP + 1 juv LJan Hughes (B&DJoh); IP + 1 juv Chapman, bred nearby? (JHol).

Tree Martin *Cereopsis nigricans*. One urban breeding record: IP nesting Nov Chapman in Dec & Jan at least 7 birds at same nest tree, breeding? (JHol).

Fairy Martin *Cereopsis ariel*. 4 colonies reported, all found in culverts during Oct: 2 in Yass Valley, 1 near Wool Stn (AM)); 1 (20 birds) just N of Tharwa (RMet).

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*. 2 records of recently fledged juv Feb; IP 4- 2 juv 14 Feb Mt Ains; Pistol Club (Lenz); IP + 1 juv 28 Feb LGin (RD).

White-winged Triller *Lalage sueurii*. At least 5P Mt Ains, Pistol Club; 5-6M singing ANU but apparently only 1M with partner, singing ceased in this area EDec, M without F disappeared, remaining breeding M stopped singing; intense singing until M/LDec Pistol Club (Lenz).

Scarlet Robin *Petroica multicolor*. One record: IP + 1 just fledged juv Mt Ains, Pistol Club (Lenz).

Red-capped Robin *Petroica goodenovii*. One record for Canberra: IF + 2 juv 30 Nov Mt Ains (MClay); one record from W of Goulburn IF + 1 dependent young and IP 11 Feb (JHol).

Hooded Robin *Melanodryas cucullata*. One record: IP with eggs 18 Oct, IP with one newly fledged juv, Wool Stn (AM).

Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*. One record available: 1 independent juv 13 Dec Mt Ains, Pistol Club (was not reared in area) and in same area resident pair and 1 recently fledged juv (Lenz).

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*. One late record: 1M feeding 2 recently fledged juv 15 Feb Mt Ains (Lenz).

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*. Possible breeding record: 1/21 Feb near farm on Sutton-Queanbeyan Rd according to owner a pair present for some time, showing aggressive behaviour towards other birds (nest defence?) (JHol).

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. Some interesting records, one early two late: juv 28 Sep, LGin (RD); IP with 3 just fledged juv Feb; IP with 1 begging juv 31 Jan LGin (RD).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*. 2 successful broods of 3, nest in *Pyracantha*, Red Hill (MW); IP arrived 15 Oct, 2 juv left nest 22 Nov, 2nd brood left nest 18 Jan, Chapman (JHol).

Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*. First estimate of breeding population (singing males) derived for urban lakes during WBS 26 Oct (peak of singing activity) and 14 Dec (less singing, windy): Oct 246 LBG, 70 LGin; Dec 150 LBG, 50 LGin; largest number LBG,E at least 160 Oct, number for this part of lake derived from transect counts and estimate of reed areas (Ross, SW) only 80 Dec (Ross); nesting Oct, BotG (RG-S).

Little Grassbird *Megalurus gramineus*. Singing males recorded during WBS 26 Oct, 4 LBG,E, 3 LGin, 4 LBG (3 areas), 1 LGin.

Rufous Songlark *Cinchorhamphus mathewsi*. Despite influx, hardly any information on breeding; IP, possibly with young Federal HW/Anthill St (Lenz); 1M 6 Sep to 9 Nov without attracting F Chapman (JHol).

Western Gerygone *Gerygone fusca*- One record: IP with nest MMar, later gave up Campbell/Mt Ains (SMat).

White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*. One record: IP building nest 15 Dec, IP + fledged juv 21 Feb Red Hill (MW).

Yellow-rumped Thornbill *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* 2P with young, Chapman (5P previous year) (JHol).

Yellow Thornbill *Acanthiza. nana*. First breeding record for area: IP feeding juv in nest 31 Jan, 1 ad + 1 fledged juv 13 Feb ANU (Lenz) (see also CBN 6 (1981) 101).

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*. Interesting observation: 1 bird taking nesting material from an abandoned nest of Red Wattlebird 1 Nov, Chapman (JHol).

White-eared Honeyeater *Lichenostomus leucotis* . Two interesting observations: 1/25 Jan carrying food (breeding?) LGin (RD); IP + 1 juv 30 Mar Condor Creek (breeding normally in Nov & Dec, see also CBN 6 (1981) 114) (Lenz).

Brown-headed Honeyeater *Melithreptus brevirostris*. 3 ad feeding recently fledged Pallid Cuckoo 2 Nov; IP feeding juv in nest 14 Feb Mt Ains, Pistol Club (see also CBN 6(1981) 116) (Lenz).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Interesting observation: 7 nests in ½ acre area of eucalypt scrub, 6 Dec LGin, 3 nests contained 5, 5 & 3 eggs, species normally prefers exotic species for nesting (JD).

White-winged Chough *Corcorax melanorhamphos*. Records of flock size & number of fledged juv 3+2, 4+1, 5+2, 4+2, 5+3, 8+2, 5+4, 6+1, 12+4, 6+2, 6+2, 7+2 Nov to Mar, Mt Ains, ANU, BotG (Lenz).

White-browed Woodswallow *Artamus superciliosus*. Several breeding records: in many cases only a few pairs out of a larger flock nested successfully and in other cases only breeding attempts were made; 2 nests with 3 juv each Red Hill (MW); Narrabundah Lane, several birds one on nest 17 Nov, birds built up to 100+ & 2 nests

one with young 3 Dec, IP + 2 juv 5 Feb (Guy); large numbers feeding young 21-23 Dec Uriarra Crossing (RG-S); 5 nests each with up to 3 young 17 Dec Old Cootna Road, Qbyn, with flying young EJan (NH) ; regular Macs Reef Rd and Federal HW (Lenz, AD); 15P LNov to EJan Mt Ains, Pistol Club, not progressing beyond nest building, left area by 10 Jan (Lenz).

Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus*. Only few records available: IP with 3 newly fledged juv 25 Dec Black Mt Peninsula (AD); 3P (one with juv) 4 Jan Mt Ains Hopper, IP + 2 recently fledged juv 8 Feb Mt Ains, Fisher St (Lenz); several Narrabundah Lane, but left when White-browed Woodswallows arrived and built up in numbers (Guy); IP among White-browed Woodswallows Mt Ains, left area earlier than the White-browed Woodswallows (Lenz).

BIRDS OF NORTH-WESTERN MEXICO: PART 2

John Penhallurick

San Bias is a very old fishing village that is showing the first signs of becoming a tourist resort. Its greatest attraction to birdwatchers is its proximity to the Singaita Jungle and to the mangroves of the estuaries. On our first day the party travelled up the Estero de Key in two long dug-outs with local guides. The mangroves along the muddy banks are full of birds but this habitat is accessible only by boat.

Shortly after dawn we saw dozens of Yellow-crowned Night herons though all had retreated into the foliage by mid-morning. New birds were the Orange-crowned Parrot, Mangrove Warbler and Golden-checked Woodpecker and we had excellent views of an adult and immature Great Black Hawk which rejoice in the name *Buteogallus urbitinga*.

We had hoped to see Muscovy Ducks which are native to this area but unhappily have been almost wholly shot out. We could hear the guns of shooters further up river and see huge flocks of ducks wheeling in flight. We were delighted when we reached the swamp that was our goal to find large numbers of Fulvous and Black-bellied Treeducks that had not been disturbed. On the shore we got close-up views of the Collared Plover and Vermillion Flycatcher. On the return trip the uncommon Rufous-necked Wood Rail and Bare-throated Tiger Heron were both seen and a further trip at dusk resulted in torchlight views of nearly a dozen Common Potoos.

The next day was spent in the Singaita Jungle, one of the northern outposts of true tropical jungle. In the morning, we drove to an abandoned coffee plantation in the upper jungle. Outstanding birds were the big Pale-billed and Lineated Woodpeckers, the tiny Blue-rumped Parrotlet, Tufted Flycatcher, Ivory-billed

Woodcreeper and Elegant Trogon. While the other members of the party were resting my roommate, an enthusiast birder from Kentucky, and I got a point-blank view of a Citreoline Trogon.

Later that day, and the following morning, we birded the denser lower jungle. Many of us had seed-ticks and chiggers to show for it. By the way, although I'd been regaled by stories of how maddening chigger bites were, I found it easy to ignore them. The yield - including Rufous-crowned Mot-mot, Grayish Saltator, Rose-throated Becard (a member of the Cotingidae that gets up into southern Texas) and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl - made the bites worthwhile.

Again my friend from Kentucky and I proved very lucky. The weird laughing calls of Collared Forest Falcons had been heard in the surrounding jungle but no-one had seen the bird. We were trying to squeak up the elusive Fan-tailed Warbler on a narrow jungle path when we heard a chunk. One of the falcons, a magnificent bird, had landed on a bough twenty metres off.

From San Bias we headed for the Hotel Villa Blanca, high in the Sierra Madre Occidental. Here the food (and beer) were German. The only thing that marred this delightful spot was the trucks. The hotel is located on the only road across the Sierra Madre for 1500 km south of the US border. And as Mexican trucks usually lack mufflers, we got little sleep. All night long we heard trucks grinding through the gears on the up-slope, then roaring downhill from the crest.

On the ridge-tops we were in pine and oak forest, with Nearctic birds; Red Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Black-eared Bushtit, Mountain Trogon, Blue Mockingbird, Red-headed Tanager, Brown-backed Solitaire and Rufous-capped Bush-finch. In the bottoms of the steep valleys or barrancas are Neotropical birds. But on the steep slopes of the barrancas, at the junction of the two major habitats, occurs a unique aggregation of plants and with them a small number of rare birds. All of the party got good views of the most famous of these; the big Tufted or Dickey's Jay, whose nearest relative lives in the high Andes. And right on the lip of the canyon, we found Aztec Thrushes, one of the two additions to Dan Lamm's 4,500 and life list.

One the way back down to the coast we were searching for Military Macaws, and finally got a distant look across a valley at a party of three birds. Feeling satisfied with this, we went to lunch at the little Village of Copala. When we came out, it was to find a tree full of the macaws, twenty metres from the restaurant.

The last full day's birding, in thick thorn scrub south of Mazatlan, brought probably the rarest bird of the whole trip; an immature Solitary Eagle. A male Red-breasted Ground Chat, a Fan-tailed Warbler (as last!) and a distant view of some Rufous-bellied Chachalacas round out a most exciting trip.

J Penhallurick, 86 Bingley Crescent, ERASER, ACT, 2615

BARREN GROUNDS OBSERVATORY TO OPEN IN MAY

The RAOU is pushing ahead to establish the first NSW bird observatory. They are planning to utilise the present unoccupied facilities at Barren Grounds Nature Reserve near Robertson, east of Mittagong. The first warden, Richard Jordan, is due to take up residence in May 1982. It is hoped that the observatory will be able to supply adequate but simple accommodation for up to 8 people from July 1982 onwards.

A series of proposals for ecological and ornithological projects has been prepared and they include regular censuses of the total bird population of the reserve and in particular the Ground Parrot and Eastern Bristlebird, sound recording and photography programmes and life-history studies of many of the common resident and migratory species using a number of techniques including banding.

It is anticipated that the RAOU will establish a management group for the Observatory and that COG members will be involved in an active way in the certain success of this project.

Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I think I can help Ian Taylor (CBN Vol 6 No 4) with his derivation queries

As in pratincole (= meadow dweller) the cola means inhabitant, so hylacola is a forest dweller (Greek hyle = wood or forest) and cisticola a bird which lives on the plants genus cistus.

Sitella can be spelt with a double t and is a diminutive of sitte, the Greek for woodpecker.

If the definition of species is that its members should under natural conditions interbreed and produce fertile offspring, I can not agree with G Tibicen that reef herons should be split by colour into 2 species. On Heron Island near Gladstone (which lives up to its name) we saw one bird of each colour sharing incubation and were told that mixed pairs were common.

Delia Johnson, 7 Bamford Street, HUGHES, ACT, 2603

CORRECTION

Reference CBN 1981 Vol 6 p 75, Metcalf on Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike Beginning of third last paragraph for '2 November 1978' read '26 '26 November 1978'.

Editor

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